

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

23 September 1974

Honorable James Abourezk  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Abourezk:

This is in response to your letter of August 27, 1974, concerning your amendment No. 1511 to S. 3394 (the police training amendment) approved in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. You noted therein my objection to expanding your amendment to prohibit the use of funds accruing "under any other law."

In my letter of 31 July 1974 to Chairman Fulbright, I stated that such an amendment would adversely impact on the Central Intelligence Agency's relationships with foreign intelligence and internal security services and would impair programs important to the national interest. I stated, also, that the amendment would appear to restrict activities now undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency under the National Security Act of 1947 for the purpose of obtaining foreign intelligence information from cooperative foreign security and intelligence services, some of which are within national police forces. In addition, in many areas of the world the protection of U.S. personnel, installations and security interests depends heavily on the effectiveness and support of foreign internal security services, as does effective action to counter terrorist activities and narcotics traffic.

An essential ingredient of many CIA relationships with foreign security and intelligence services is some limited and specialized training and other support, as well as the exchange of information and advice. If the Agency were restricted in these activities, our ability to perform our assigned intelligence mission would be severely curtailed.

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Activities of the Central Intelligence Agency such as those described in general terms above are authorized by section 102(d)(5), (50 USC 403(d)(5) ) of the National Security Act of 1947. Under this statutory authority the National Security Council has issued classified directives and instructions to the Central Intelligence Agency outlining the conduct of the national foreign intelligence effort.

It is my understanding that your interest in expanding the amendment to funds "under any other law" is to prohibit any other Federal agency from funding programs terminated by the narrower language. It is the intent of this Agency to fully comply with the underlying policy of the amendment not to perpetuate programs of other agencies terminated as a result of its enactment and to limit CIA's activities in this field to those related to intelligence. My concern with the broader language relates to its adverse impact on the traditional intelligence functions of this Agency as described above. Thus it would seem that the addition of the phrase "under any other law" is unnecessary in the absence of some other specific statutory authorization.

I hope this is responsive to your needs. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

  
W. E. Colby  
Director

Enclosure

Copy of National Security Act of 1947